(d) if not, whether the Ministry has withheld reimbursement of Rs. 206 crore to Kolkata Port Trust, as reported in the news-item; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI VED PRAKASH GOYAL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) In the contract between Kolkata Port Trust and HAM Dredging & Marine Contractors, there was a provision for increasing depth at Jellingham by 1.5 metres from the prevailing level of the river bed in the shipping channel with vertical tolerance of 0.5 metres.

(d) and (e) The Ministry has not withheld reimbursement of Rs. 206 crores to Kolkata Port Trust, as reported in the news-item. The Ministry reimburses expenditure incurred by Kolkata Port on maintenance dreding on the basis of expenditure certified by the Principal Director of Audit, Central, Kolkata. As per the present policy, entire expenditure certified by the Audit is reimbursable to Kolkata Port.

Review committee for income criteria for creamy layer among OBCs

*575. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute a Committee to review the income crietria for identification of creamy layer among Other Backward Classes; and

(b) if so, by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has already decided to constitute a Committee to review the income criteria for identification of 'Creamy Layer' among OBCs and is in the process of finalizing its constitution.

Funds for various corporations

*576. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to the various corporations for the economic upliftment of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes during the year 2001;

(b) whether State Government like Gujarat are closing down Leather Development Corporations and Handloom Corporations; and

(c) whether Government would consider revival of these corporations which are helpful for the rural population, scheduled castes in particular?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The details of funds allocated to the various Corporations are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the Corporation	Funds allocated during 2001-02 (Rs. in crores)
1.	National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation	25.00
2.	National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation	25.00
3.	National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation	27.00
4.	National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation	16.84

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The Government of Gujarat has not closed down the State Leather Development Corporation but the same has been merged with the Gujarat Rural Industries Marketing Corporation Ltd., with effect from 1.3.2001. The State Government of Gujarat has also decided to merge the State Handloom Development Corporation and the State Handicraft Development Corporation. The merger of these corporations will take care of the scheduled caste beneficiaries.

Target and achievement of shipping industry

577. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian shipping industry has failed to achieve the target fixed the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the target and the achievement for the Plan period;

(c) the reasons for the wide gap between the target and the achievement; and

(d) the steps being taken to achieve target during the Tenth Five Year Plan?